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H. L. Davis

DOG-FENNEL

Today burn tree-prunings. Dead branches are cut and piled
And the soft-stemmed grass broken and raked to kindle them.
Rain beats a little light dust up from the sand.
This is the time when birds come to pick the grass-seed
Exposed, white on the ground sweetened with dead roots
Grown since you marked the scoured furrows with your name.
You made prints of your breasts here when you were lately grown,
But they are beaten out; and all the dog-fennel
Is burned, that stung your eyes with its white bitter dust.
O dead sister, your pride keeps seasons like the birds.

H. L. Davis

THE SEEKER

Your life seemed consecrated to a vow—
To seek for truth, even though the seeking led
Through solitary frozen ways. And now
You've found it—yet they speak of you as dead.

Antoinette De Coursey Patterson